

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.

Alexandria Gazette.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 2, 1902.

Curious Old Custom.

In one of the suburbs of Paris a wealthy merchant died the other day, and on the evening of the funeral his neighbors witnessed a curious ceremony.

An hour before the body was to be taken to the cemetery the relatives of the dead man, five or six in number, went out into the garden adjoining the house and walked solemnly and silently around it. Each carried a lantern and kept his eyes fixed on the ground, as though he were looking for something. Finally they all halted in front of a large pile of stones, and, laying aside their lanterns, proceeded to throw down the pile. After every stone had been removed they examined minutely the spot on which the pile had rested and then slowly and with bowed heads returned to the house.

This is an old Norman custom, and it is observed in this instance because the dead man was a native of Gisors. There is a tradition in Normandy that before burying a body all the ground around his dwelling should be searched in order to make sure that the soul has not hidden itself somewhere. At one time every family in Normandy faithfully observed this tradition, but now only a few pay heed to it.

The Year 1881.

The year 1881 was a chronological oddity of the oddest kind, besides being a mathematical curiosity seldom equalled. From right to left and left to right it reads the same. Eighteen divided by 2 gives 9; if divided by 9, the quotient contains a 9; if multiplied by 9, the product contains two 9s; 1 and 8 are 9; and 1 and 8 are 9. If the 18 be placed under the 81 and added, the sum is 99. If the figures be added thus—1, 8, 8, 1—it will give 18 as the result. Reading to the middle from right to left, or from left to right it is 18, and is two-ninths of 81. By adding, dividing and multiplying ten 9s are produced, being one 9 for each year to the beginning of the last decade of the nineteenth century.

No wonder the fortune tellers, the astrologers and the mathematicians weave so many strange fancies around that curious combination of figures. It may have been what induced Mother Shipton to end her prophetic jingle with, "And at last the world to an end shall come in eighteen hundred and eighty-one."

A Wonder in Penmanship.

Among the curiosities preserved by the Minnesota Historical society is a lithographed copy of an engrossment of the emancipation proclamation. The engraver, one W. H. Pratt of Davenport, Ia., was very skillful in his manipulations of the pen that he succeeded, by careful and exact shading of the letters, in producing a very excellent portrait of Abraham Lincoln, the author of the famous document, in the center of the copy. In other words, the lettering itself is made to form a portrait of Mr. Lincoln. There were probably a large number of them originally struck off, but copies of it are now very rare. As a specimen of pen work it is certainly very unique.

Wood in Egyptian Stonework.

Probably the oldest timber in the world which has been subjected to the use of man is that found in the ancient temples of Egypt in connection with the stonework, which is known to be at least 4,000 years old. This, the only wood used in the construction of the temples, is in the form of ties holding the end of one stone to another. When two blocks were laid in place, an excavation about an inch deep was made in each block, in which a tie shaped like an hourglass is driven. It is therefore very difficult to force any stone from its position.

Uncles Expense.

A prince received from the house steward his monthly statement of accounts, in which occurred the item of 150 lire for the keep of a cat in the palace. The prince immediately wrote in the margin, "If there are no rats in the house, it is no good keeping a cat; if there are any rats, the charge for the keep of the cat is superfluous." And he struck out the item.

A Success.

"Mrs. Blkins learned to play poker so she could keep her husband in at night."

"And does he stay in now?"

"I should say so. She wins so much of his spending allowance that he hasn't the price of a drink."—Philadelphia Record.

Prima Facie Evidence.

The late Lord Morris on one occasion gave a characteristic illustration of the meaning of "prima facie evidence."

"It," he said to the jury, "you saw a man coming out of a public house wiping his mouth, that would be prima facie evidence that he had been having a drink."

Outmaneuvered.

The Lady—Did any one call while I was out?

The Maid—No, ma'am.

The Lady—That's very strange. I wonder what people think I have a day "at home" for anyway.—Indianapolis News.

A Narrow Escape.

Bingie tells me that he had two horses killed under him in one of the battles of the last war."

"That's right. A railway car he was riding in backed into them."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Surgeon's Knife Not Needed.

Surgery is no longer necessary to cure piles. Dr. D. W. H. Hazel's Salve cures such cases at once, rendering the necessity for dangerous operations and expensive operations unnecessary. Burns, wounds, blisters, and skin diseases it is unequalled. Beware of counterfeits. For sale by E. S. Leadbeater & Son.

CANNED LOBSTER, fresh, just received by J. C. MILBURN.

MEDICINAL.

Kodol

Digests what you Eat

Dyspepsia Cure

Indigestion affects so many organs besides the stomach that the nature of the disease is sometimes mistaken. Headaches, giddiness, and so-called heart trouble are usually caused by indigestion alone. In such cases it is the stomach trouble which must be cured. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure restores health by digesting your food while the stomach rests. Digesting doesn't mean rest but starvation. You should relieve the stomach without weakening the system by denying yourself proper food. With a sound stomach your other complaints will soon disappear. "After seven years' suffering from Indigestion" writes Mrs. Annie Alcorn of Meriden, Pa. "I was cured by three bottles of Kodol Dyspepsia Cure."

Cures All Stomach Troubles.

Prepared by E. C. DeWitt & Co., Chicago. The bottle contains 24 times the size of a cure, costs cold, crisp, bronchitis, grippe, throat and lung troubles.

ONE MINUTE COUGH CURE. Absolutely safe. Act immediately.

Sold by F. S. Leadbeater & Sons.

Important Notice.

On Saturday, Sunday, February 23rd, the Florida and Metropolitan Limited train on the Washington-Southern Railway, leaving Alexandria 7:15 p. m. daily, for Richmond and points south on the S. & T., and Florida will carry Pullman cars only and regular fare of the Pullman company will be charged.

W. P. TAYLOR, Traffic Manager.

Washington Southern Railway Excursion Tickets to Charleston, S. C.

Exposition excursion tickets to Charleston via Richmond on the Washington Southern Railway.

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